If you or someone in your family has a child with special needs you know what it means to have support services at your fingertips! Public Health Muskegon County (PHMC) has a fulltime Public Health Nurse that is committed to offering family centered services to support the parents in their primary role as caretaker of the child as well as coverage and referral for specialty services based on the child’s health problems.

During Fiscal Year 2011, Muskegon County had 577 children enrolled in Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program. Without this program many families would not be able to pay for services that their child needs. This program has the ability to refer the family to an agency to get a special ramp built, work with the child’s school to get needed school services, arrange service delivery from providers and coordinate a Plan of Care with the Early On Program.

Every day brings new challenges for these families. Sometimes, the smallest problems for these families cause the most frustration. PHMC is proud to be able to administer the CSHCS program services for our most vulnerable population – our children!

Pat Krehn, RN, BSN
Nursing Supervisor

Staff and Roles
Nursing Supervisor: Pat Krehn, RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse: Diana Wojton, RN, BSN
Departmental Clerk: Dawn Benkert

Basis for Program

Public Health Code (Excerpt)
Act 368 of 1978, as amended.
333.5805 Service to be developed, extended, and improved; referral of children; purposes of program.
Sec. 5805.
1. The department shall develop, extend, and improve services:
   a. For locating crippled children and children suffering from conditions which lead to crippling and, effective April 1, 1989, for locating children reported to the department pursuant to section 5721.
   b. For providing medical, surgical, corrective, nutritional, and other services and care, including aftercare when necessary, and facilities for diagnosis and hospitalization of crippled children.
   c. For preventing, insofar as possible, crippling conditions.
2. The department shall refer children reported to the department pursuant to section 5721 who are in need of services to the appropriate services inside or outside of the department.
3. The program shall be carried out for the purposes of providing medical and physical care for crippled children and for making them self-sustaining in whole or in part rather than dependent on the public for support.

Purpose of the Program
Michigan Department of Community Health contracts with PHMC for CSHCS. The program provides outreach assistance to families at the local level, including, but not limited to:

- Assist with program application and renewal
- Assist with obtaining medical reports for determination of medical eligibility
- Provide program information on medical eligibility, program coverage periods and covered services
• Refer to and assist with application for other programs such as Early On, MI Child, Healthy Kids, WIC and other programs within the health department
• Facilitate linkage of families to support services (family phone line, transportation assistance, etc) and community resources (Community Mental Health, Intermediate School District)
• Provide case management and care coordination services – contact families to share information, perform a nursing assessment, document care coordination activities and follow-up as needed
• Assist families in accessing CSHCS service benefits (Hospice, Home Health, etc)
• Assist families with the guardianship process as needed prior to the client turning age 18
• Assist clients who age out of CSHCS and their families during the process of transitioning to adult services
• Access community-based services to help parents care for their child at home and maintain normal routines
• Culturally competent services which demonstrate awareness of cultural differences
• Coordinated services to pull together the services of many different providers who work within different agencies

Community Data

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Top five diagnoses:

1. Uncomplicated Juvenile Diabetes – 81 (14%)
2. Cerebral Palsy – 26 (4%)
3. Epilepsy – 22 (3%)
4. Asthma – 17 (2%)
5. Perinatal Chronic Respiratory Distress – 11 (1%)

Community Value

Some of the families that have been assisted by CSHCS this year:

• The program nurse attended a discharge meeting at DeVos Children’s Hospital for a 5 month-old infant. She was preparing to go home on a ventilator within 2 weeks and the home did not have an electrical outlet that could meet the demands of the ventilator. The nurse assisted the family in accessing the Children with Special Needs Fund to cover this cost. It was done quickly and the parents were able to take their child home.
• The CSHCS nurse helped a father get diabetic supplies for his daughter. He had lost his medical coverage. They were almost out of supplies and needed to quickly provide proof of loss of primary insurance so CSHCS could purchase the supplies. It usually takes a couple of weeks and they did not have enough supplies to last. The nurse was able to work with CSHCS at the state level to expedite the change in insurance status.
• Assistance was given to a family to obtain 180 hours of skilled nursing care for their child with a tracheotomy. Mom was pregnant and due within a couple of weeks and needed care for her child while she was in the hospital and afterwards when she was recovering from a C-section.
Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Information (Unaudited)

Revenues:
- Intergovernmental Revenue: $162,368 (97.29%)
- Medicaid: $0 (0.00%)
- Fees: $0 (0.00%)
- Access Health: $0 (0.00%)
- Transfers In: $4,518 (2.71%)
- Total Revenues: $166,886 (100.00%)

Expenditures:
- Program Salaries/Fringes: $129,041 (77.32%)
- Other Program Expenditures: $37,845 (22.68%)
- Total Expenditures: $166,886 (100.00%)

Pie charts showing breakdown of revenues and expenditures.